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Global sharpshooters trained in Christchurch as mosque shooting unfolded

Katie Kenny • 21:03, Mar 19 2019

MORNING REPORT/RNZ

A veteran ambulance officer who worked through the Canterbury earthquakes says the mosque terror attack was the worst scene he's ever attended.

Thanks to a police training course the same day as the Christchurch terrorist attack, specialist staff from overseas, as well as New Zealand's Defence Force, were on hand to help.

Personnel taking part in the course in the city centre were already wearing their gear when the first 111 call was received at 1.41pm on Friday, March 15.

Fifty people were killed and dozens more injured in the massacre, which had been timed to coincide with [Jumu'ah](#), a congregational prayer that has Muslims shoulder-to-shoulder in mosques not long after noon each Friday. Fortunately, it also happened to coincide with a gathering of some of the world's best sharpshooters.

Individuals from the police special tactics group (STG), NZDF, Australian and Hong Kong police, were involved in the response, a New Zealand Police spokesperson said.

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